**Book Report Assignment**

You will read a NOVEL of your choosing, with parental permission. It must be written at grade level or higher. Then, follow the directions below to complete your book report.

Structure: Be sure that your name (first and last), your English block, and the date appear in the upper left-hand corner of the page. The heading of your paper will be the title of the novel that you read (either in *italics* or underlined) and the author’s name as it appears on the cover of the book.

1. List three main characters from your novel. Describe the CHARACTER of each. Indicate which one is the PROTAGONIST and which is the ANTAGONIST. (One or two sentences are sufficient for each character.) (3 marks)
2. Describe the setting of your novel in a sentence or two. Remember that setting has two parts. (1 mark)
3. Write a sentence which states one or more of the themes of the novel you have read. (1 mark)
4. Choose any TWO of the following topics, and respond in **AT LEAST ONE** well-organized paragraph to each topic you select. You may choose to write two formal literary paragraphs, or you may choose compositions (more than one paragraph each), which clearly respond to the topics. **DO NOT RE-TELL THE PLOT OF YOUR NOVEL!** Remember that well-organized paragraphs MUST use examples and quotations from the novel as evidence, and those examples and quotations MUST be cited correctly! Be sure that you clearly indicate which topics you are responding to. Each response is marked on the 30-mark rubric.
5. In many novels, setting is very important. For example, the author may use it as a motivation for the characters’ behavior, or to reflect the state of mind of a character, or to represent the values held by a character. IF THE SETTING WAS IMPORTANT IN YOUR NOVEL, explain how the author uses it.
6. In some novels, the experience of an important character changes him; in others, the character remains unchanged. Consider why the character has or has not changed. Do not only describe the character, you must also show change (or lack of it) with evidence from the book.
7. Select one character, other than the protagonist, and in concrete, specific incidents in the novel, tell how he or she contributed to the outcome of the main character or the novel itself. Relate this connection to a theme in your book.
8. Select a symbol in the novel and relate not only how the author develops it from beginning to end-tracing the development through the use of several examples to show what the symbol comes to mean--and also how the symbol relates to a theme for the book.
9. In literature, characters make mistakes. From the novel that you have just read, choose a character that makes a mistake. Identify the mistake, tell why he/she made it, and give the outcome. Why was it a mistake? What should he/she have done instead? Why is your alternative a better idea? How would making a different choice have affected the outcome of the book?
10. Which character in the book could you relate to most and why? It might be one who has problems similar to yours or lives in a similar environment or has the same hopes for the future or reacts the way you do to problems. You might choose to do the opposite and write about the character that you relate to the least.
11. What events, experiences, philosophies, or areas of knowledge did the author introduce you to in the book? In other words, in what way did the novel discuss or explore something new to you? Did you learn about a different period, political, or historical attitude, religious experience, or moral dilemma? Using at least three examples, explain in what way the novel exposed you to new ideas or lifestyles. What do you understand or know about now that you didn’t before you read this book?
12. Many literary works criticize something in their society or men and women who fail to live up to the ideals of the society. Explain and analyze the ideals the author has established in the novel and show how he/she criticizes or supports it by what happens in the book.
13. A recurring theme in literature is the “classic war between a passion and responsibility.” For instance, a personal cause, a love, a desire for revenge, a determination to redress a wrong, or some other emotion or drive may conflict with moral duty (what a character wants to do vs. what they should do). Determine if your novel has a character who confronts this type of conflict and then write about this conflict and how it is resolved.